



# Stay in a Wilderness Cabin

If you want to get away to a wilderness cabin, state and federal agencies in Alaska give you more than 200 opportunities. Cabins are located throughout Alaska on trails, lakes, streams, ocean shorelines and in alpine areas. They are managed by different public agencies, each with its own guidelines for rental. The following list provides basic information as well as contact numbers and addresses for the five land management agencies currently renting public use cabins in Alaska.

Cabins have “rugged” accommodations: usually a heating stove, bunks/sleeping platforms, table and chairs and an outhouse. You are responsible for providing your food, cook stove and cooking utensils, water and bedding.

Access to cabins is by plane, boat, trail or a combination of these. You are on your own for arranging transportation to and from the cabins. Usually a list of operators permitted to provide services within the public land unit can be obtained from the managing agency. Most cabins are used year round although usage may be strongly discouraged during certain times of the year. Alaska’s weather can delay your trip at any time of year, so plan accordingly with extra food, provisions and pick-up plans. For any travel in Alaska’s backcountry, you are responsible for your own safety; be prepared with survival skills and proper equipment.

Generally, cabin permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis for noncommercial purposes to anyone over 18 years old. However, because of high

demand, agencies may incorporate a lottery system.

## U.S. Forest Service

### Location/Access

Chugach National Forest, located in South Central Alaska and the Prince William Sound area, has just over 40 cabins available for public use, while the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska has over 150 cabins. The majority of cabins are accessed by plane or boat. Those accessible by trail tend to be more popular and are reserved months in advance. It is best to start planning early for making cabin reservations.

### Reservations/Cost

Reservations can be made up to 180 days (6 months) in advance of the first night of occupancy. Chugach and Tongass cabin reservations are handled by a phone reservation system at 1-877-444-6777 or on the internet at <http://www.ReserveUSA.com> <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10>

User fees vary from \$25 to \$45 per cabin per night. Maximum length of stay varies from three to seven nights during the summer season. Permit or confirmation number required while occupying a public recreation cabin.

## National Wildlife Refuges

### Reservations:

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
1390 Buskin River Road  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
(907) 487-2600



Aialik Bay Cabin in Kenai Fjords National Park



Many people enjoy renting public use cabins in winter.

## Did you know...

You can learn about 105 of the most popular cabins in the book, *How to Rent a Public Cabin in Southcentral Alaska* by Andromeda Romano-Lax. It is available at the Alaska Natural History Association at 907-274-8440

## LOCATION/ACCESS

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge maintains seven public use cabins. You must take a float plane or boat to all of the cabins because brush and terrain make hiking very difficult. There is no road access.

## Reservations/Cost

Cabin reservations are scheduled by lottery. Three month blocks are drawn three months in advance (i.e. January, February, March are drawn the first day of business in October). Applications are accepted until the last business day before a drawing date. Applications may be mailed or delivered in person. Each group may make only one application per lottery. After the lottery drawing, cabins are available on a first-come, first-served basis and can be reserved by phone. The cost is currently \$20/cabin/night

## National Park Service Reservations:

Kenai Fjords National Park  
Cabin Reservations  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste 105  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 271-2737  
<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>

## Location/Access

Situated near Seward, Kenai Fjords National Park has three coastal cabins open only during the summer months at Aialik Bay, Holgate Arm and North Arm. These are accessible by float plane, and private or charter boat.

The park also has one cabin at Exit Glacier open for public use only in winter when the Exit Glacier Road is closed (usually late December through March depending on snowfall). The Exit Glacier cabin can be reached in winter by skis, dogsleds, and snowmachines. Call (907) 224-9500 to reserve this cabin.

## Reservations/Cost

Cabin use is by reservation only. A special recreation permit is required in advance. Permits are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations will be awarded before January 1 of the year in which you want the permit. You may apply by phone, mail or in person. Cabin fees are currently \$35/cabin/night.

Because of high demand, cabin use is limited to a maximum of three consecutive days in one year, except North Arm Cabin. The limit for North Arm is nine consecutive days because of its remoteness and access costs. A permit day goes from noon on the assigned day and ends at noon on the next. Individuals in the same party may not make sequential applications in an effort to exceed the limit.

Wrangell St. - Elias National Park  
PO Box 439  
1055 Old Richardson Highway  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
(907) 822-5234  
<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/cabins/cabins.htm>

Wrangell St. - Elias has 11 public use cabins. These rustic cabins are primarily accessible by air- taxi or snowmachine. Only the Esker Cabin requires a reservation and a fee of \$25 per night. Call (907) 784-3295 to reserve this cabin. All others are on a first come, first served basis.

Yukon - Charley Rivers National Park  
PO Box 167  
Eagle, AK 99738  
(907) 547-2233  
[http://www.nps.gov/yuch/Expanded/cabins/public\\_use\\_cabins.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yuch/Expanded/cabins/public_use_cabins.htm)

Yukon - Charley has five public use cabins available on a no cost, first come, first served basis. Be aware that if others arrive you may have company, particularly in emergency situations

## Alaska State Parks Reservations:

Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Public Information Center (PIC)  
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1260  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
(907) 269-8400  
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us>

## Location/Access

Alaska State Park cabins are found at the following State Recreation Areas: Nancy Lakes near Wasilla, Chena River near Fairbanks, Quartz Lake and Fielding Lake near Delta Junction, and Resurrection Bay at Seward. State cabins are also found at the following state parks: Kachemak Bay, Denali, Chugach, Point Bridget, Oliver Inlet, and the islands of Afognak, Shuyak and Grinnell. Some of the cabins are road

accessible, while others are remote with seasonal access difficulties.

## Reservations/Cost

The cabins can be rented from the nearest state park office or from the DNR Public Information Center. You can reserve up to 180 days (6 months) in advance. Reservations are made in person or by mail, and are not confirmed until the full amount is paid. Sorry, but no credit cards are accepted at this time. Fees are NON-refundable although a one-time cabin credit is given for certain circumstances. There is a \$5 service fee for changing or canceling a reservation.

The cabins range in size and can sleep from three to ten persons. Costs range from \$25 to \$50 per cabin per night.

## Bureau of Land Management Reservations:

Bureau of Land Management  
Land Information Center  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844  
(907) 474-2250

## Location/Access

The White Mountains National Recreation Area has over 200 miles of winter trails with several cozy log cabins built at scenic locations along the trail system. These remote cabins are used by skiers, dog mushers and snowmachiners. The wet and marshy trail conditions allow only one of these cabins (Lee's Cabin) to be suitable for summer use.

There is one cabin near the roadside (Fred Blixt), which is not part of the White Mountains system, but which is also available for rent (year round).

## Reservations/Cost

Cabins must be reserved and can be booked up to 30 days in advance by mail, telephone or in person. The fees are \$20/cabin/night for weekends, and \$15/cabin/night for weekdays, and must be paid at the time of reservation. Credit cards are accepted for payment. Use is limited to three consecutive nights per cabin. Carry your payment receipt with you as proof that you have reserved the cabin. Rentals may be rescheduled or refunded, if requested more than 10 days prior to the reservation date.